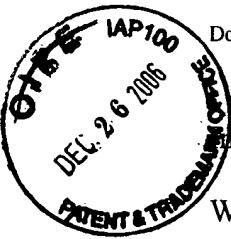


1743



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re patent application of:)
 Wolfgang-Reinhold Knappe) Before the Examiner
 Serial No. 09/426,931)
 Filed October 22, 1999) Lyle Alexander
 SPREADING LAYERS, WETTING)
 AGENTS FOR THEIR PRODUCTION) Group Art Unit 1743
 AND THEIR USE IN TEST STRIPS) December 21, 2006

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 26, 2006, please consider the following. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any additional fees which may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 21, 2006.

Timothy N. Thomas
 Name of Registered Representative


 Signature

December 21, 2006
 Date of Signature